

## **Clean Up to Begin at Illegal Dump Site in Augusta**

Clean up of an illegal dump near a former construction and demolition landfill in Augusta is scheduled for early January. The effort is part of a state program. The landfill, located south of Highway 54 and 96, adjacent to the city limits of Augusta, was closed in the 1970's. Since that time illegal dumpers have disposed of items ranging from household trash to industrial waste near the landfill.

The site was discovered as a result of an inspection by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), which occurs regularly for all closed landfills in the state. The cost of the clean up is estimated at \$4,460.00. Butler County officials have hired a contractor to clear the debris from the area. The county will pay 25 percent of the cost of cleanup and the KDHE Illegal Dump Program will pay the remaining 75 percent.

"The program has had a positive impact in Butler County where we have assisted with the clean up of three other sites including two near Eldorado and one near Cassidy," said Bob Medina, KDHE Illegal Dump Program Manager.

KDHE's Illegal Dump Program, which targets illegal dump sites statewide and works with local authorities to ensure proper clean up, has identified approximately 100 sites statewide since the program began in 2000. The program is funded by the \$1 per ton fee paid by landfills and transfer stations.

Financial assistance to other communities wishing to clean up illegal dumps is available. Local governments are required to pay 25 percent of the cost which may be also be paid with in-kind services such as equipment, labor and offering available landfill space.

Illegal dump sites should be reported to the local government or to Bob Medina, Program Manager of KDHE's Illegal Dump Program at 785-296-6617.